

National Energy Policy



Report of the National Energy Policy Development Group

May 2001

Reliable, Affordable, and Environmentally Sound Energy for America's Future

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"America must have an energy policy that plans for the future, but meets the needs of today. I believe we can develop our natural resources and protect our environment."

— President George W. Bush

Members of the National Energy Policy Development Group

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The Vice President

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The Secretary of State

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The Secretary of the Treasury

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Using Energy Wisely

Increasing Energy Conservation and Efficiency

The Department of Energy has installed two low-sulfur light bulbs as a test at its Forrestal Building headquarters in Washington, D.C. The two golf ball-sized bulbs, like those on the opposite page, are at each end of a 240-foot, 10-inch-wide reflective plastic "light pipe." U.S. DEPARTMENTOF ENERGY

nergy efficiency is the ability to use less energy to produce the same amount of lighting, heating, transportation, and other energy services. For a family or business, conserving energy means lower energy bills. For the country as a whole, greater energy efficiency helps us make the most of U.S. energy resources, reduces energy shortages, lowers our reliance on energy imports, mitigates the impact of high energy prices, and reduces pollution. Improvements in efficiency can be particularly effective in reducing energy demand when energy is most expensive.

Conservation and energy efficiency are important elements of a sound energy policy. Improved energy efficiency is the result of many decisions, including those of individual consumers; manufacturers of cars and appliances; home builders; and state, federal, and local government officials. The federal government can promote energy efficiency and conservation by including the dissemination of timely and accurate information regarding the energy use of consumers' purchases, setting standards for more energy efficient products, and encouraging industry to develop more efficient products. The federal government can also promote energy efficiency and conservation through programs like the Energy Star program, and search for more innovative technologies that improve efficiency and conservation through research and development.

Since 1973, the U.S. economy has grown nearly five times faster than energy use (126 percent versus 26 percent). Had Americans continued to use energy as intensively as in 1970, the U.S. would have consumed about 177 quadrillion Btus of energy last year, compared to about 99 quadrillion Btus actually consumed.





